

IN THE CLAIMS

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application.

Listing of Claims

Claim 1 (currently amended): A zirconium based alloy ~~also containing~~ comprising a zirconium base and, by weight:

Fe and at least one of the elements selected from the group consisting of Cr and V, a total of the contents in Fe and Cr + V being 200 to 700 ppm;

0.8% to 1.3% by weight of niobium;

1100 to 1700 ppm of oxygen;

less than 100 ppm of carbon;

10 to 35 ppm of sulfur;

less than 50 ppm of silicon and;

tin content exceeding zero and being 100 ppm or less in weight.

Claim 2 (previously presented): A sheathing tube for one of a nuclear fuel rod and a guide tube for a nuclear fuel assembly, made from a zirconium based alloy also containing, by weight, Fe and at least one of the elements selected from the group consisting of Cr and V, a total of the contents in Fe and Cr + V being 200 to 700 ppm; 0.8% to 1.3% by weight of niobium, tin content exceeding zero and being 100 ppm or less, 1100 to 1700 ppm of oxygen, less than 100 ppm of carbon, 10 to 35 ppm of sulfur and less than 50 ppm of silicon, in the re-crystallized state, at least the greater part of the iron being in the form $Zr(Nb, Fe, Cr)_2$ or $Zr(Nb, Fe, V)_2$ and in which the intermetallic compounds are of a size not exceeding 200 nm.

Claim 3 (original): A sheet of alloy as claimed in claim 1.

Claim 4 (previously presented): The zirconium based alloy of claim 1, wherein a ratio by weight of the Fe to the at least one of the elements selected from the group consisting of Cr and V is between 0.5 and 30.

Claim 5 (previously presented): The sheathing tube of claim 2, wherein a ratio by weight of the Fe to the at least one of the elements selected from the group consisting of Cr and V is between 0.5 and 30.

Claim 6 (previously presented): The sheet of claim 3, wherein a ratio by weight of the Fe to the at least one of the elements selected from the group consisting of Cr and V is between 0.5 and 30.

Claim 7 (previously presented): The sheathing tube of claim 2, wherein the intermetallic compounds are of a size exceeding 100nm.